

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SAM-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01

DOT-00 FAA-00 CAB-02 OC-05 CCO-00 /089 W

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R 111602Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3390

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO

SUBJ: TAP AIRLINE STRIKE

REF: A. LISBON 3809; B. LISBON 4179 SEP 74

1. TAP AIRLINE EMPLOYEES CONTINUING TO EXTEND LENGTH OF DAILY
WORK STOPPAGE LOOKING TOWARD TOTAL STRIKE JULY 14. WORK HALTED
FIVE HOURS JULY 10, FOURTH DAY OF CURRENT PHASE OF DISPUTE.

2. CAUSE OF CURRENT LABOR DEMANDS SEEN AS PRIMARILY ECONOMIC
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BUT POLITICAL OVERTONES INEVITABLE IN PORTUGAL TODAY. TAP

EMPLOYEES HAVE RECEIVED NO PAY INCREASE SINCE APRIL 1974
REVOLUTION IN SPITE OF RECORD OF LABOR STRIFE AND CON-
FRONTATIONS (REFTELS).

3. TAP HAS 8,600 EMPLOYEES (5,500 LOCATED IN MAINLAND
PORTUGAL) REPRESENTED BY 43 UNIONS. TWENTY-ONE OF MOST
IMPORTANT OF THESE HAVE CREATED A FIVE-MAN COMMISSION TO
REPRESENT ALL WORKERS IN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS. ALL CLAUSES
OF PROPOSED CONTRACT ARE AGREED EXCEPT BASIC ISSUE OF AMOUNT
OF PAY INCREASE. GOVERNMENT IS OFFERING SETTLEMENT OF
\$3,800,000 TO COVER BOTH INCREASES AND FRINGE BENEFITS,
WHILE WORKERS WANT THIS AMOUNT TO COVER PAY INCREASES ONLY
AND ADDITIONAL \$1,200,000 TO COVER BENEFITS.

4. GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNIST-DOMINATED MEDIA GIVING
UNSYMPATHETIC TREATMENT TO STRIKE, ALLEGING IT IS COUNTER-
REVOLUTIONARY AND THAT WORKERS, ALREADY WELL PAID, ARE
SLACKERS IN BATTLE FOR PRODUCTION. WORKERS THUS FAR SHOWING
UNITY AND WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT CONFRONTATION. TO LIMITED
EXTENT WORKERS' POLITICAL LINE EVIDENT, MES AND SOCIALIST
ELEMENTS SEEM PREDOMINANT. EMPLOYEES OCCUPIED VARIOUS TAP
OFFICES FOR 10 DAYS PRIOR TO COMMENCING STRIKE ACTION, A MOVE
IGNORED BY THE PRESS AND LARGELY UNNOTICED AS SERVICES TO THE
PUBLIC WERE UNAFFECTED DURING THIS PERIOD.
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